



Media Release

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DHS Names New Director of Behavioral Health Services

The Department of Human Services has named David Laffoon Director of the Division of Behavioral Health Services. A veteran in hospital administration for nearly three decades, Laffoon has served on both the boards of the Arkansas Hospital Association and the Arkansas Board of Health for more than twenty years.

“David brings with him vast experience in health systems, particularly in the areas of clinical operations and quality improvement,” said John Selig, Director of the Department of Human Services. “He combines that with a history of public service and advocacy for people with mental health needs.”

The Division of Behavioral Health Services has 970 employees and manages the Arkansas State Hospital and the Arkansas Health Center. The division also oversees and funds the state’s mental health and substance abuse treatment systems, working with numerous community providers and advocacy groups.

“I have been affected both professionally and personally by the evolution of Arkansas’ mental health system,” said Laffoon. “I want to continue to focus on the progress made through the System of Care (SOC) to provide services to families when they need them and where they need them.”

Laffoon will assume his role as Director effective immediately.

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